

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

S O C C E R

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Maradona during a five-a-side training game.



The Argentine players have a break during early morning training.



Maradona practising his close skills.



Jose Basualdo celebrating scoring in a training session at Wentworth Park.

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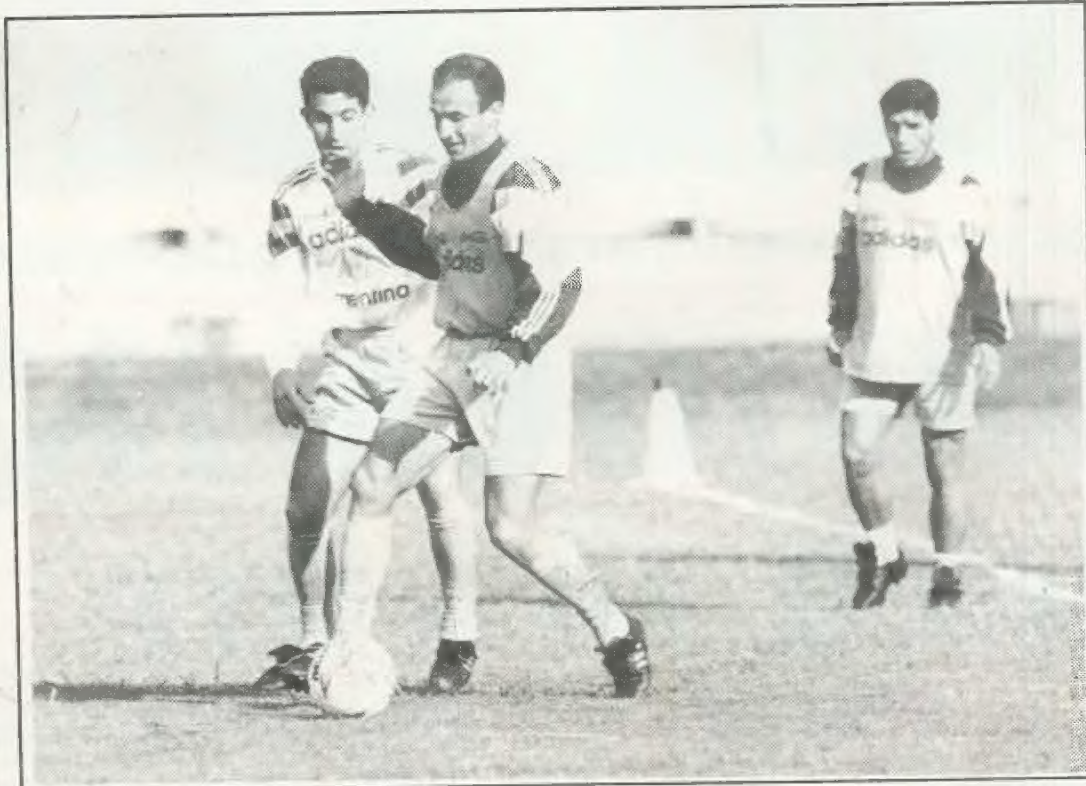
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Veteran midfielder Jose Basualdo being closely followed by Hugo Perez.

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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA SPECIAL

THE EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR HELP IN COMPILING THIS SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION: ROGER SLEEMAN, SALLY CHANT, NEKTARIOS KOUPELLIS, MARY QUARTLY, ALFRED HIATT, ANTHONY RAINERI, KEITH COLE, SARAH CLARRY, MARIO ETCHART, LOU GAUTIER, JAMES RANKIN, ALISTAIR RUSSELL & THEO SKALKOS.

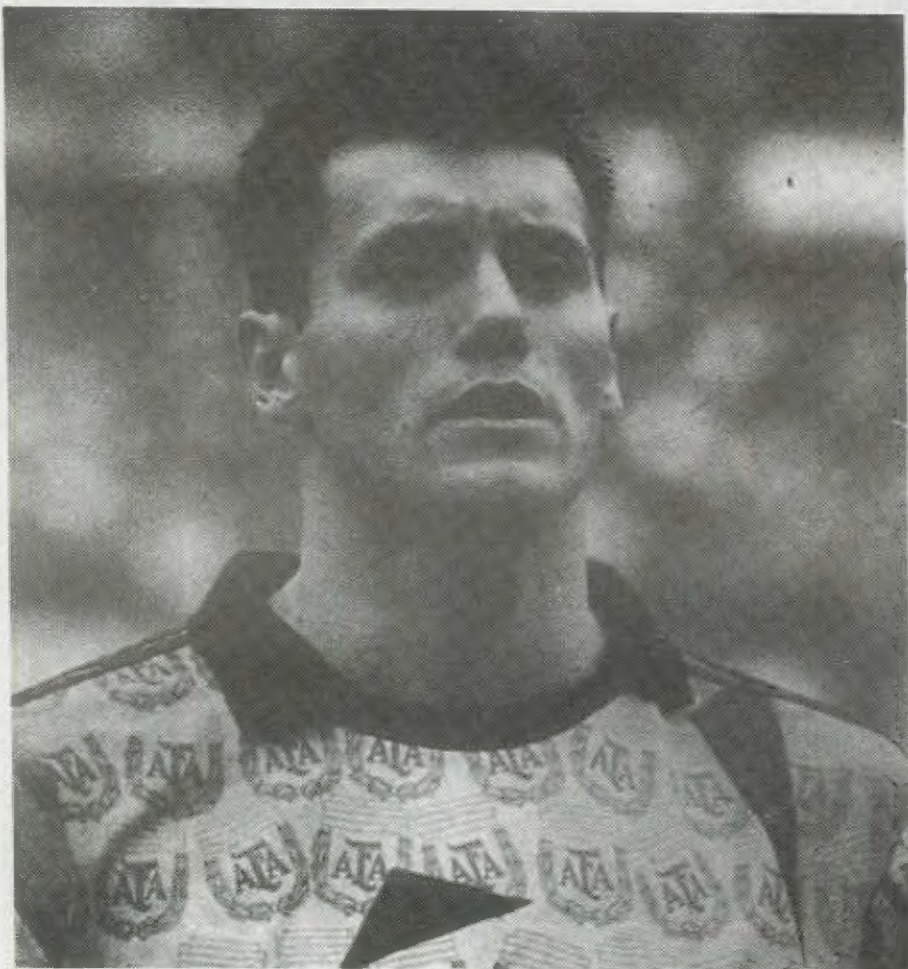
THE KEY PLAYERS — ARGENTINA

Diego Maradona

"When I heard the Argentine fans cheer the Colombians when Argentina lost 5-0 I felt anger and impotence. It was a traumatic loss. My father, who was next to me, told me that if I played that day the outcome of the match could have been different.

"I had a chat with my wife and daughters and with my parents and I decided to return to the national team, because I love the national team too much, and I want to contribute to achieve the dream of qualifying for the next World Cup.

"It won't be easy, but I am very confident".



Sergio Goycochea

"There are no more weak teams in modern football. If Australia reached this last hurdle, obviously it is because it is a good team. We can't be too complacent and we won't fail if we don't believe that because we are Argentina we have already won the qualifying round. That could be fatal.

"We have to be humble and understand that we will be playing two finals. We must play Australia with high spirits and great determination."



Fernando Redondo

"We know that we owe our supporters. But we now have a new chance of restoring our dignity and pride and qualify for USA '94.

"We don't know much about Australia, but our main worry is the performance of our team.

"We know that if Argentina regains its best collective form and improves individually we will be able to qualify for the finals."

SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

THE KEY PLAYERS — SOCCEROOS

Ned Zelic

BY SARAH CLARRY

WHILE no Australian would deny that the Socceroos have a daunting task ahead of them to qualify for USA '94, there is still hope here that come October 31, they can knock Argentina off their precarious perch.

In Germany, however, Socceroo Ned Zelic appears to be alone in his belief that Australia stands a great chance of taking the home leg.

"The feeling here is, basically, that Australia's got no chance."

"What the people are really looking at is reputation and Argentina have the reputation," Zelic said. "But everybody in Germany also knows that there are no easy games in international football."

In order to beat Argentina, Zelic says Australia must match them at their own game.

"They're a very skilful side and they've got a good short passing game, and I think we're going to have to basically try to do the same."

"It's hard to say how they're going to play away from home. Whether they're going to stick 11 men behind the ball and defend, or if they're going to come out and attack."

Zelic says he would prefer the latter. "Hopefully, they'll come out and play their normal game, their offensive game, which will probably give us more room in midfield and create some opportunities."

Zelic is comfortable moving up to a more attacking midfield position with Milan Ivanovic at sweeper.

"I'm happy playing at sweeper and I'm happy playing in midfield," he said. "I've played at midfield in

the past, probably more than I have sweeper, so it doesn't really bother me."

He is also delighted that goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has decided to return for the game.

"Obviously, Mark is a very talented goalkeeper," Zelic said. "It's great to have him back and

Schwarzer."

Zelic will return to Germany straight after the October 31 game, as will several other overseas-based players who have midweek and cup games.

He said, "We play a midweek game. I want to make myself available but that will depend on how I feel when I come back."

However, he doesn't believe the hours of travel will seriously affect Australia's preparation for the return leg at the River Plate Stadium.

"The players that we have in the squad have been together long enough now, so it's not a case of a new squad coming together and breaking up and going their own way."

"Obviously, you can say that all the travelling will probably affect them physically, but coming from Australia you get used to it."

As for lining up against Maradona, Zelic says he feels no differently to playing against an Argentina minus the superstar.

"I suppose it's just another hurdle for us, though obviously it's a very tough one."

"If we're going to get to the World Cup we're going to have to overcome teams who are the same standard and calibre as Argentina in the USA," he said.

He also believes that now is the best chance Australia has of knocking over such a side.

"They haven't been performing that well in the other World Cup qualifying games that I've seen against Colombia and some of the other countries."

"I'm very confident, but not over-confident. Argentina are at a stage where they've got new players coming in and the side might be a bit unsettled."

"I think it's just a case of us putting it out on the park," he concluded.



Ned Zelic in action

he'll be a steady player in our defence as he's proven in the past.

"All the same we're pretty well-covered in that area. Australia's got some good goalkeepers at the moment in Robert Zabica and Mark

Mehmet Durakovic

BY ANTHONY RAINERI

SOUTH Melbourne defender Mehmet Durakovic will have the most unwanted job in the world on Sunday — marking the legendary and incomparable Diego Maradona.

Durakovic is likely to be given this almost impossible assignment which has been failed by some of the world's best defenders over the years.

Even if Maradona, by some remote chance, plays a deep role and is picked up by a Socceroo midfielder, Durakovic will be given the also unenviable task of marking Gabriel Batistuta who plays in Italy and is rated one of the top strikers in the world.

"What can you say about Diego Maradona," Durakovic said. "He will be dangerous all over the field and if you give him even an inch of space he will kill you."

"I'll do my best not to make him score and to make him touch the ball as few times as possible."

"When we were in camp in Adelaide last week we watched a few videos of Maradona both when he was in his prime and his latest matches for his new club."

"I think I have a pretty good idea of his game now but let me tell you he has no weaknesses."

"I'll just do my best and keep my fingers crossed."

Having to mark world-class players is nothing new to Durakovic.

The 28-year-old will forever be remembered for his super-human efforts in containing multi-million dollar stars Gary Lineker, of England and Jean-Pierre Papin, of AC Milan, in the past couple of years.

Durakovic said the crowd would play a significant role in the outcome of the match.

"Against Canada, the crowd lifted everybody in the Australian team," he said. "They never stopped cheering."

"We will need a similar lift on Sunday."

"The match will be the most important of our lives so far."

"These guys (Argentina) were world champions. They're not easy-beats. Until Colombia, they had not lost for a long time."

"They still have my respect."

"If we play like we did against Canada, we



MEHMET DURAKOVIC: hoping to play against Maradona.

will do well.
"We need to beat Argentina."

Milan Ivanovic

BY ALFRED HIATT

Milan Ivanovic, the ice-cool sweeper who starred in the Socceroos' defeat of Canada, says he is playing his best football since coming to Australia.

And the former Red Star Belgrade defender, who will start on Sunday if Eddie Thomson decides to play Ned Zelic in midfield, is looking forward to the game of his life.

"It is the dream of every player to compete against Argentina and Maradona," Ivanovic said.

"This is the biggest game of my career, even though I played some matches for Red Star Belgrade in European competition."

"It is also one of the most important games in Australian soccer history."

The player most likely to score for Argentina is crack striker Gabriel Batistuta, and Ivanovic knows that the Socceroos will have their work cut out containing the Fiorentina star.

"Batistuta is a very hard player to control," admits Ivanovic.

"He scored twice against us in Buenos Aires last year, and is always hungry for balls."

"I expect Alex Tobin to do a marking job on him, but that may depend on where Maradona plays."

The unassuming Ivanovic, recognised as one of the true gentlemen of Australian soccer, will only discuss his achievements with the utmost reluctance.

But the man considered by many experts Australia's best player against Canada confesses to being happy with his current form.

"I am playing better now than when I first came to Australia."

"It is now nearly five years since I arrived here, and it has taken time to adjust to a new way of life."

"I was pleased with my performance against Canada, but more important was the way the team played, and, of course, the fact that we won."

"I am confident that if we play our best soccer against Argentina we can get a good result."



MILAN IVANOVIC: the stylish Socceroo sweeper.

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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

JOHNNY WARREN recalls the Socceroos' successful 1974 World Cup campaign



was in a quandary about how to replace John Watkiss who was unavailable.

Finally he settled on Peter Wilson, a big, blond coal miner from Wollongong, who was to become our most capped international.

Rasic also introduced new players Col Curran, Jack Reilly, Jimmy Mackay, Mike Denton, George Blues, Harry Williams, John Roche, Dennis Yaager, and recalled Adrian Alston and Ray Richards who last had served Australia in 1969 and 1967 respectively.

There was defensive steel in this touring team — steel which beat out memorable victories over



Iran, Israel, Greece and Luton Town — our first victory over an English team.

We lost only three of our 15 games on that tour — not a bad record — and the centre-back partners, Peter Wilson and Manfred Schaefer were named by Rasic as the best players. So now we had the heart of the team that would challenge

for a place in Germany: Wilson and Schaefer in the middle of the defence, Reilly in goal, Mackay, Richards and myself in midfield.

The other positions would be filled in the remaining campaigns leading up to the 1973 qualifying series.

By 1972, after matches against the touring English FA, Israel and Dundee of Scotland, we were looking very good indeed.

I was a spectator by then, due to a knee injury that interrupted my career, but it came as no surprise to me that we were able to beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 1-0 in Melbourne, through a goal by Abonyi.

The Wolves coach was quoted by Laurie Schwab in 'The Age' as saying that his team would be 'out for blood' and would show the Socceroos no mercy, yet Australia looked more a European First Division team that Wolves did.

The knockers dismissed the victory out of hand, claiming Wolves had been tired after the trip from England. Rasic didn't see it that way.

Still experimenting in the search for the best possible World Cup team, he dropped star players Reilly, Hogg, Mackay and Abonyi in order to try out Corry, Buggy Nyskohus, Jimmy Rooney, Billy Rogers and Terry Butler, and still the Socceroos managed a 2-2 draw in the return match.

If that wasn't enough to convince the public, Australia played a 2-2 draw with Pelé's team Santos in Sydney that year.

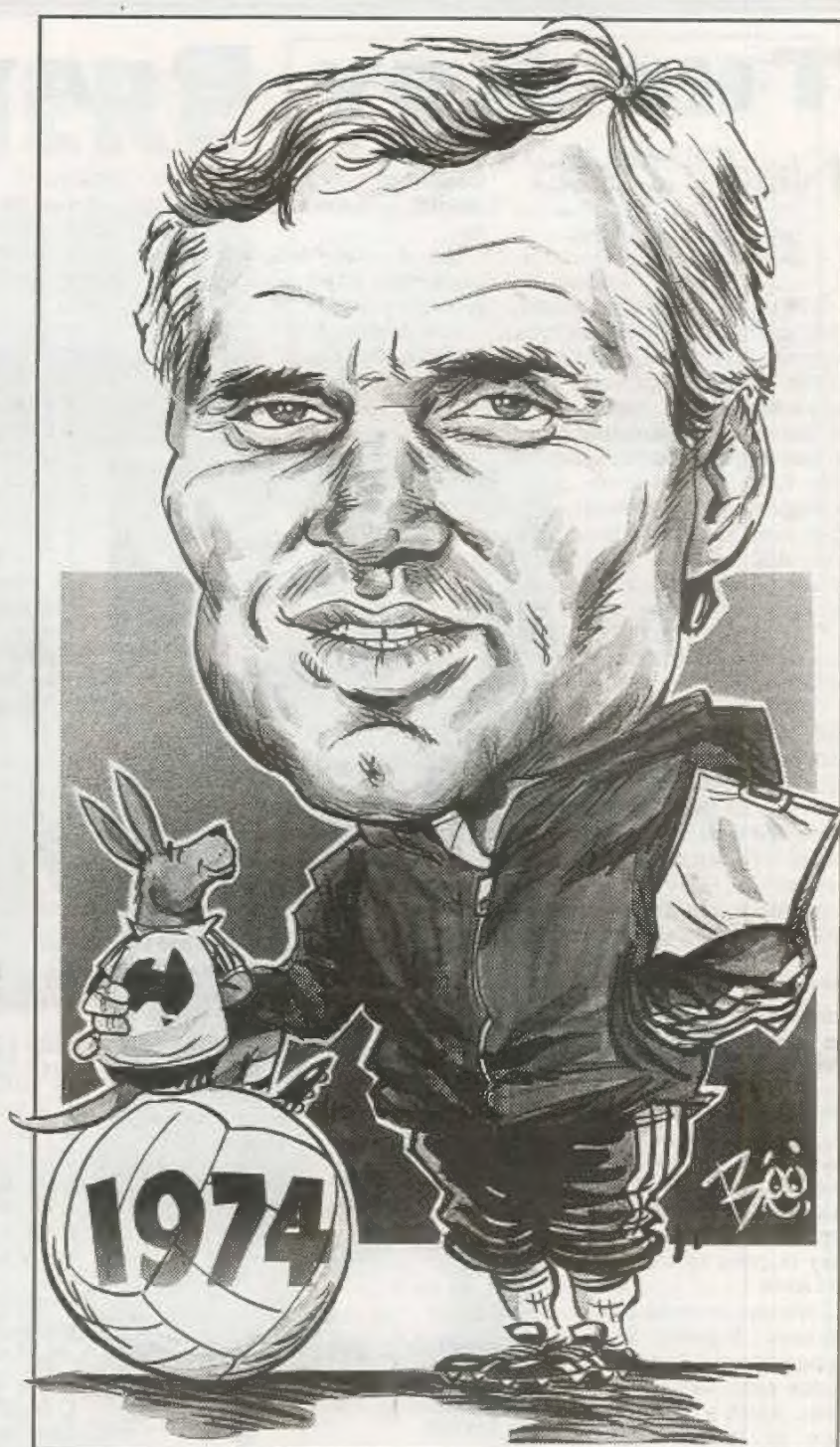
Ray Richards will never forget that day. He was assigned to mark Pelé, who said afterwards: "That man is one of the toughest opponents I have played against."

Having overcome my injury, I returned to the team for its tour of Indonesia, South Vietnam and the Philippines in 1972.

Two notable newcomers on that tour were Doug Utjesenovic and Branko Buljevic who were to remain permanent fixtures leading up to Germany.

Branko Buljevic was top scorer of that tour, finishing with six goals, and his skills and vision impressed me tremendously.

Bulgaria, against whom we played three matches



in early 1973, proved our toughest opponent since the touring Scotland side of 1967, and the best we could do was a 2-2 draw in Sydney where Buljevic scored and Max Tolson

added another from the penalty spot.

We lost the other games, 1-3 in Adelaide and 0-2 in Melbourne.

Then came the World Cup.

Ernie Campbell salvaged a 1-1 draw with New Zealand in the first qualifying match, equalising after coming on as a substitute in Auckland.

We then won a round-robin tournament at home against New Zealand, Indonesia and Iraq before having to face Iran and South Korea home and away.

Luckily for us, Iran played warm-up matches in New Zealand before flying to Sydney for the Australian leg of our tie. Key players had been injured in New Zealand, and so we won more easily than perhaps we should have — 3-0, with goals by Alston, Abonyi and Wilson.

But we came crashing back to earth in the return leg, losing 0-2 in front of a fanatically partisan 100,000 crowd in Tehran. Only the appearance of substitute Max Tolson as an extra defender prevented Iran from scoring a third goal and forcing a play-off.

And so we advanced to the Asian final against South Korea on an aggregate 3-2 victory. Australia had possibly its luckiest let-off in



JIMMY MACKAY: the player whose goal against South Korea put Australia into the 1974 World Cup finals.

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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

The Berlin draw with Chile was a highlight



ATTILA ABONYI: legendary Socceroo striker.

international soccer when we played a scoreless draw with South Korea in our home leg in Sydney.

The Koreans were sharper and much more dangerous on the day, but goals eluded them, much to our relief.

There was another lucky let-off in the return leg. South Korea went to a 2-0 lead in Seoul and had Buljevic not scored immediately after that second goal, Korea would have shut up shot to consolidate the lead.

But Buljevic's goal put us back into the game and Ray Baartz managed to find an opening for the equalising goal.

That meant a tie-

breaker in neutral Hong Kong. Our greater physical strength and endurance proved decisive in that encounter.

The Koreans seemed drained of energy. We were still hungry for success and we rejoiced late into the night after Jimmy Mackay had scored the goal that gave us our historic 1-0 victory.

Matches against Ferencvaros, an Auckland XI and Uruguay in early 1974 were not more than preparation for our

mission in West Germany. But Uruguay also had qualified for Germany and it was determined to preserve its reputation by fair means or foul.

As it turned out, foul play became the order of the day as it became obvious to the Uruguayans that they were dealing with soccer players of real quality.

They didn't like being held to a scoreless draw in Melbourne, so they came out in Sydney determined to win at any cost.

As it turned out, Australia won 2-0 despite the theatrical protests and vicious kicking of the Uruguayans, but we paid dearly for that win.

Ray Baartz, knocked down by karate chop to the neck, had to be rushed to hospital after the game. He lay there partly paralysed due to a blood clot. His family was frantic.

Luckily, Baartz was to recover fully over the next few years and I thought it was a fine feat by the ASF to fly him to Germany with the team even though he would not play.

Our three games in the World Cup finals constitute the highlight of my soccer career. I played only in the first game — the 0-2 loss to East Germany — but that didn't matter.

We were a team — all of us, on the field or on

the bench. We all felt for poor Col Curran when he scored an own goal against East Germany.

We all marvelled at the brilliance of our two front men, Alston and Buljevic, in that game.

And how we all hoped that Schaefer would succeed in his burning ambition to hold Gerd Mueller scoreless in the second match, against West Germany.

Alas, Mueller did manage a goal in Germany's 3-0 victory but Mueller conceded afterwards that Schaefer had been one hell of an opponent.

And in the teeming rain at the Berlin Olympic Stadium, how we shared Jimmy Mackay's disappointment when he just failed to connect as he slid at the ball in the goal area — the best scoring chance in the scoreless draw with Chile.



Manfred Schaefer, now coach at Sydney United, playing for the Socceroos in 1974.

A REVIEW BY ROGER SLEEMAN

THERE are many championships in the world soccer calendar, but none compare with the World Cup.

Every four years, the cream of world soccer stars gather to compete on the world stage for soccer supremacy. For the winners victory is sweet, the vanquished must face that there's always next time, and for some countries the mere participation makes it all worthwhile.

This discovery video captures all the glory, disappointment and thrills and spills of the last seven World Cup finals in 80 minutes of top quality, non-stop action. Who could forget Geoff Hurst's hat-trick at Wembley in 1966; the Brazilian's amazing performance in 1970 —

Pele, Jairzinho and Rivelino — or Maradona's 'hand of God' from 1986? Plus spectacular action from superstars such as Kempes, Platini, Cruyff, Rossi, Schillaci, Milla, Gascoigne, Lineker and many more. The feature of this video is the way that the major events have been packaged. It's all action approach also provides a valuable training aid for the young player as there is a great emphasis in presenting the skill factor of Pele, Jairzinho, Cruyff, Platini Maradona and others. Whether you're a collector of football souvenirs, or just a lover of great football, this video is a must, and with Christmas so close, it would be the perfect gift.

The video is distributed by Discovery Video from Melbourne. (see advertisement and order form below).

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Australia in action against West Germany in the 1974 World Cup in Holland.

SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

Can We Do It Again?

BY SARAH CLARRY



WITH all of the hype and awesome reputation surrounding Argentina, there are still many who look to Australia's bicentennial Gold Cup success, 4-1 over the then World champions.

Charlie Yankos was part of that Socceroo side, scoring one of the most memorable goals in Australian soccer history.

But now he says reminiscing on past successes will do nothing to help history repeat itself.

"I don't think that we can look at these games along the same lines," Yankos said. "We have to forget about 1988 because it was totally different players, totally different circumstances. I don't think a comparison should be there."

Yankos believes that the only issue remaining from that historic win is

that of pride. "I'm quite sure that they (Argentina) are going to feel that on this ground our predecessors lost and they'll want to redeem that loss."

Only a complete recluse could have missed the Maradona overkill leading up to and since the champion's arrival in this country. According to Yankos his influence on the first leg match, both physically and psychologically, could be a double-barreled one.

"Two things could happen," he said, "After losing 5-0 to Colombia, his presence could bring the best out of the other Argentinian players, just because of the nature of the person."

On the other hand, Yankos says Maradona's presence for this leg is a good thing for Australia. With all the media attention being focussed on him, and to a lesser extent the Argentinian team, Australia is being allowed a low-key preparation with a minimum of fuss and pressure.

"The pressure is on Argentina to perform and our media is doing that

job."

"All the publicity has been around Diego Maradona. We've hardly heard anything about any other player. It could be detrimental for them."

As Yankos pointed out, it is those players who have been involved in all the other games, and have got the team this far in their World Cup campaign.

"He's got the captaincy back, all the media want to talk to him, and you don't know how this is going to affect the morale of the other players in his team. They may feel they have been cheated."

On the field, Yankos believes that Australia are well and truly capable of winning the first leg match.

"Realistically we can beat any team in the world once, I've always maintained that."

"We need to play within our means. I don't think we're going to go out there and bombard them from the outset."

"If we do that we're going to get killed. They're too good a team, They're streetwise."

"These guys are true professionals and you have to respect them. That doesn't mean that you respect them to a point where you don't do anything yourself, but we need to have a strong performance here and get a positive result."

Tactically, Yankos says Australia must stop Argentina playing their normal game.

"If we can close them down very quickly and we don't give them time on the ball...if we don't let them play to their pace and we make and take chances, then they're not in control of the game."



Charlie Yankos with Brazilian captain Geovani at the Sydney Football Stadium in July 1988.

"And we have to stop their midfield supplying their strikers — I think that's the most important facet of the game."

Yankos believes that the Australian players should be cautious around the Maradona hype.

"From our point of view, if our players concentrate too much on Maradona, they are going to fall into a trap," he said.

"There are other players out there who are good enough to destroy

us anyway, and I think we have to pay attention to all of them."

"The only way we're going to overcome any hurdle in this World Cup campaign is to work as a unit, and that's been the success of the Australian team up until now."

"There's a lot of circumstances that can surround any game at any time. Players being sent off, injuries, a whole range of factors like that. So if things go right for us on the day and everyone

performs to their best, to that ability that they can perform, sure, we can beat anybody."

"And we can beat Argentina, with or without Diego Maradona."

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* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

AUSTRALIA ARGENTINA

A LOOK BACK AT THE GOLD CUP

With Argentine-born Vic Fernandez and Frank Arok — the Socceroo coach in 1988.

BY ALFRED HIATT

It was the game in which Australian soccer stood up and was counted.

The Socceroos' Bicentennial Cup victory over Argentina on a balmy July night in 1988 sent shock waves through the soccer world.

Argentina, the reigning World Champions, had been expected to cruise past the locals to a meeting with Brazil in the final, but instead they found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-1 hiding.

For then Socceroo coach Frank Arok, who had been told that his team had no chance of victory, the win was sweet satisfaction.

"We had been told that we could not do it - even the ASF never trusted its own team", recalls Arok.

"But we had brainwashed our side that we would be in the final, and on the night everything went our way.

"The players were super-fit; they had played about 40 games together, and in every game we were a well-ordered machine which went out to win".

Scott Ollerenshaw, who played the game as a 20-year-old attacking left winger, has no hesitation in naming Charlie Yankos' stunning free-kick as the goal that turned the game.

"We scored the first goal, but for the next half hour we were

really struggling.

"Charlie's free-kick was an amazing goal, and it just seemed to release us - after that everything went right for us."

"I will never forget Yankos' goal", says Arok. "It was so important because it gave us a cushion."

friendly game, but it was the most important game on that day.

"The Argentinians fielded their best team available, and so did we. They were deadly serious about it, and you should have seen the reaction when they got back to Argentina."

"It was one of the biggest surprises in world soccer at the time."

The Socceroo line-up of that night was: Oliver, Yankos, Dunn, Jennings, Savor, Davidson, Wade, Bozinowski, Farina, Arnold, Ollerenshaw.

The scorers: Yankos (2), Wade, Bozinowski.

Arok maintains that the 1988 win will give the Socceroos the confidence to take on Argentina, but is critical of the decision to play the first leg of the tie in Australia.

"There is no good reason whatsoever for playing the first leg here."

"I know enough about South American football to realise that when we go over there the Argentinians will

resort to dirty tactics and kick the hell out of us."

"The ASF was scared to play the first leg in Argentina, because they thought we would lose, and they wouldn't get a big crowd."

"Unfortunately, it was the worst decision that could have been made, and it could cost us the tie."



Scott Ollerenshaw in action for the Socceroos five years ago.

"After half-time we scored from a penalty, and finally another beautiful goal which was the icing on the cake."

"It was a great feeling when we were scoring goals, a special feeling you can't buy."

Arok also rejects the suggestion that Argentina did not take the game seriously.

"People say that it was just a

BY SARAH CLARRY

NOT all Australian Argentinians will be sporting blue and white faces and singing Maradona's name at the Sydney Football Stadium this Sunday.

Vic Fernandez is Australia's assistant national youth team coach, and is Argentinian-born. Fernandez has been in Australia now for 30 years.

"I've spent more of my life in Argentina, so there's always a little room in my heart for them," he confessed.

"But for me, Australia's number one, I can't deny that."

He understands, however, the maniacal, religious fervour of football support in South America, and says it would be harder for an Argentinian supporter to accept defeat in these final qualifiers than it would for the average Australian.

Argentina have rarely not participated in a World Cup while Australia has qualified only once. In a sense it is an expectation.

Trying to explain it in simple terms, he says: "You were born with it. Even for competition games, the supporters are mad. From Sunday to Wednesday they talk about the last game and from Wednesday to Sunday they talk about the following game. It is their life."

He says football in Argentina knows no class, gender or age barriers.

"You talk to a 70-year-old woman on the street and she will tell you the names of all the players on the national team," he said.

Fernandez describes the importance, from an

Argentinian perspective, of the team qualifying.

"It's a must, really. Especially the way the team was performing. They played for just on two years and hadn't lost a game. What happened with Colombia is one of those rare things that happens in soccer."



VIC FERNANDEZ.

"Even now, still, everybody's in shock, because nobody would expect them to lose at home and to lose by that much. It was a game where they didn't capitalise on the early chances they had."

Up until their loss to Colombia, there was no reason for Argentina to think of failing to qualify for the World Cup. They were playing well and they were winning matches.

Fernandez believes that Argentina are now very concerned.

"They respect Australia. After the shock against Colombia, they cannot take this game lightly," he said.

"They have to be very, very humble and go out and do the job, otherwise they could be in

trouble."

However, Fernandez doesn't believe the Argentinians will play defensive football against Australia in the first leg match.

He said: "They will take the same attitude that they have been taking for the last two years. They will play the same way, but they really have to go out and work."

Amidst the wildly-varying opinions on the effect Maradona will have on the two matches, Fernandez is resolute in his belief that he can only be a positive influence.

"He was, and is, for me, the Number One player in the world," he said.

"You can expect anything from him. Just to know that Maradona is there would raise the team 60-70 percent psychologically."

He also believes Maradona himself is hungry for Australia's scalp.

"He looks very sharp. I've never seen him so fit and so determined. You watch him training on TV you can see how keen he is."

In order to beat Argentina, Fernandez says, Australia must be very intelligent.

"We must use our brains more than our muscles."

"They will have to put someone on Batistuta for 90 minutes. He is just as important as Maradona because he finishes all the moves."

Despite his background and understanding of the Argentinian culture and psyche, Fernandez has no doubt as to where his loyalties now lay.

"I'm involved with Australia, from my pocket to my heart. I've been too many years here now."

USA '94 WORLD CUP

What it's all about...

BY ROGER SLEEMAN

THE biggest sporting event in the world is coming to America, as USA '94 promises to be the most successful World Cup in history.

If anyone doubts this fact, one only has to recall the Olympics of 1984 in Los Angeles, when football attracted the largest crowds, culminating in a capacity crowd of 102,000 at the final between France and Brazil.

The statistics alone speak for the anticipated bonanza of the event.

— a cumulative television audience of approximately 31 billion people in over 170 countries.

— live attendance of 3.5 million for the 52 games.

When you consider there is a demand for tickets that almost doubles this figure, anybody who



is lucky enough to see the matches should be counting their lucky stars.

Tickets for the quarter and semi-finals are now in the ballot for American citizens, such is the popularity of the event.

— turnover of approximately \$5 billion dollars is expected from all sources.

— all games televised on ABC and ESPN, the American networks, without commercial breaks.

Even the anti-football lobby in the States will find it impossible to ignore the impact of the event.

Nevertheless, it's been a long

time between drinks for the American people, as not since the heyday of the NASL in the 1970s, has football commanded a centre stage in American sport.

People still talk about the glory days of Pele, Cruyff, Beckenbauer, Neeskens, Best, Marsh, Chinaglia and the list goes on.

Now the Americans have captured the big one which will hopefully provide the catalyst for the game to enter a new era of prosperity.

It's all about education as the organising committee projects the message that football is the world's shared passion, the means to bring all people together, and the World Cup is the most treasured prize of all.

Since the USA was awarded the right to stage the finals, the marketing machine has been in full operation to ensure that success of the series.

It's big business and if people can see a way to make money they will back the sport. The success of the Time Warner marketing arm in selling the merchandising rights has been nothing short of phenomenal.

How we can learn from the Americans in the area of sports marketing!

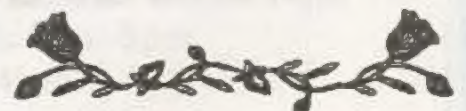
So when the Socceroos walk on to the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday to face the might of Argentina, the stakes are high.

The expected windfall of three million dollars on qualification, and the commercial spinoffs from participation in USA '94, would place the game in a very strong position and maybe the Australian people will finally realise that football is the common obsession which unites diverse countries, billions of people and the emotions of the world.

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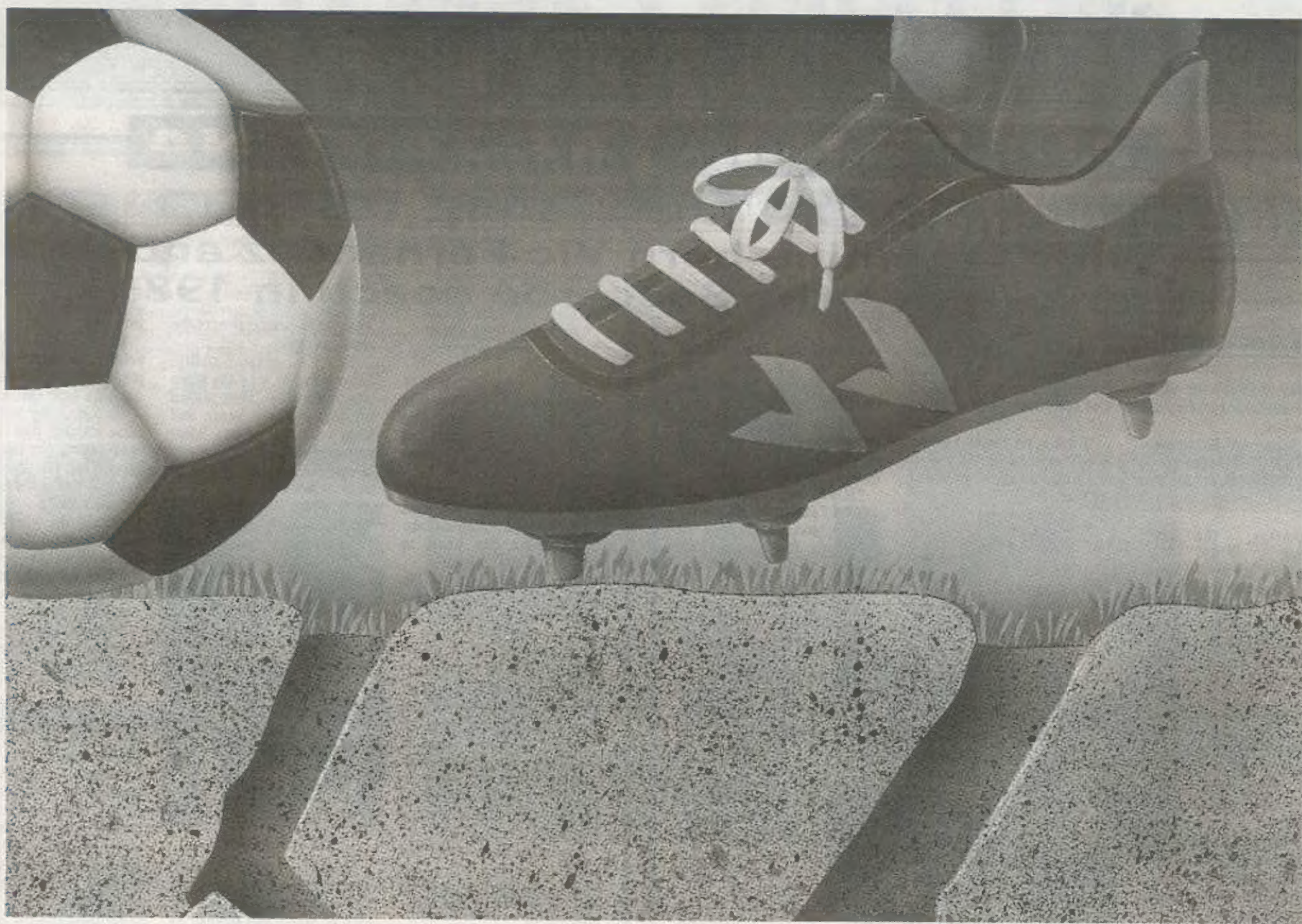
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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

Socceroo Pen Portraits



1. ROBERT ZABICA

DOB: 9.4.64 Ht: 185cm Wt: 92kg
Position: Goalkeeper Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 32
"A" Internationals: 25
Played in Perth prior to joining Coca-Cola Soccer League club, Adelaide City in 1988. He represented South Australia in 1990 and 1991 and made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in February 1990 against Moscow Torpedo in Melbourne, where he kept a clean sheet with Australia winning 3-0.



8. AURELIO VIDMAR

DOB: 3.2.67 Ht: 180cm Wt: 72kg
Position: Midfielder SV Waregem (Belgium)
Total Appearances: 17
"A" Internationals: 11
Older brother of Tony Vidmar, Aurelio also played with CCSL club Adelaide City before moving to Belgium to play with First Division Club Kortrijk. Has since signed for another Belgium Club, SV Waregem. Aurelio made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos, celebrating his 21st Birthday, against Dynamo Zagreb on 3.2.88 in Melbourne.



15. CARL VEART

DOB: 21.5.70 Ht: 184cm Wt: 77kg
Position: Striker Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 8
"A" Internationals: 8
First played senior soccer for South Australian side Salisbury United in 1986. Played both Under 19s and seniors with South Australia. Scored a goal on his debut with the Coca-Cola Socceroos in a World Cup qualifier against the Solomon Islands in September 1992.



2. MILAN BLAGOJEVIC

DOB: 24.12.69 Ht: 183cm Wt: 80kg
Position: Defender/Midfielder SC Heerenveen
Total Appearances: 9
"A" Internationals: 6
A graduate from Apia Leichhardt, he first broke into international prominence being a squad member for the Coca-Cola Socceroos game against England in June 1991 and later represented his country as a substitute in the President's Cup matches in South Korea in June 1991.



9. GRAHAM ARNOLD

DOB: 3.8.63 Ht: 184cm Wt: 87kg
Position: Striker RC Liegeois
Total Appearances: 69
"A" Internationals: 44
Played with CCSL club Sydney United before moving to Dutch First Division club, Roda JC where he completed two seasons before moving to RC Liegeois. Made his Socceroo debut against Red Star in 1985. Graham scored over 50 goals in five seasons with Sydney CSC. Has scored 27 goals for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in his 63 appearances.



16. DAVID MITCHELL

DOB: 13.6.62 Ht: 185cm Wt: 80kg
Position: striker Millwall (England)
Total Appearances: 40 "A" Internationals: 27
Developed as a player with the now defunct Sydney City before moving abroad to start his career as a professional footballer. Has played with Glasgow Rangers in Scotland Feyenoord in The Netherlands, Chelsea, Swindon Town and Newcastle in the UK. Recently, joined Millwall after an unsuccessful stint with Turkish side Altay. His first cap for the Coca-Cola Socceroos was against Taiwan in 1981.



3. DOMINIC LONGO

DOB: 23.8.70 Ht: 184cm Wt: 84kg
Position: Defender Cercle Brugge (Belgium)
Total Appearances: 4
"A" Internationals: 2
Originally from Tasmania, Longo won a scholarship to the AIS. He won selection to the Australian Coca-Cola Joeys, Coca-Cola Young Socceroos and then the Coca-Cola Olyroos. His career was temporarily halted after a knee operation in 1989. Dominic made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in their European tour playing against FC Twente in November 1992.



10. JASON VAN BLERK

DOB: 16.3.68 Ht: 186cm Wt: 76kg
Position: Midfielder SC Go Ahead Eagles (Holland)
Total Appearances: 16
"A" Internationals: 16
Progressed from NSW Under 14 representative to National level and represented the Coca-Cola Socceroos in their tour of Indonesia and the President's Cup in Korea in 1990. Jason made his first appearance for the Coca-Cola Socceroos in Jakarta against Indonesia B where he scored two goals in their 7-0 victory.



17. STEVE CORICA

DOB: 24.3.73 Ht: 177cm Wt: 74kg
Position: Striker, Marconi-Fairfield
Total Appearances: 4
"A" Internationals: 4
Steve is an exciting young star. Originally from Innisfail in Far North Queensland, he played for Queensland representative squads and then graduated to the Australian Schoolboys, the Coca-Cola Joeys, the Coca-Cola Young Socceroos, the Coca-Cola Olyroos and now the Coca-Cola Socceroos. The only player to have achieved this honour.



4. NED ZELIC

DOB: 4.7.71 Ht: 185cm Wt: 81kg
Position: Defender Borussia Dortmund (Germany)
Total Appearances: 17 "A" Internationals: 12
A graduate of the AIS, he came from the Australian youth team to captain the Coca-Cola Olyroos. Many will remember Ned for his glorious goal against the Netherlands, which helped Australia qualify for the 1992 Olympics. Ned made his debut with the Coca-Cola Socceroos in February '91 when he came on as a substitute against Czechoslovakia.



11. ROBBIE SLATER

DOB: 22.11.64 Ht: 179cm Wt: 82kg
Position: Striker RC Lens (France)
Total Appearances: 17
"A" Internationals: 11
Made his debut in the Coca-Cola Soccer League at the age of 17 with St George where he stayed for four years before moving to Sydney CSC in 1987. He then moved to French First Division club, RC Lens, where he is playing his third season. He made his debut as a Coca-Cola Socceroo against Glasgow Rangers in 1984.



18. JASON POLAK

DOB: 9.1.68 Ht: 179cm Wt: 78kg
Position: Midfielder South Melbourne
Total Appearances: 12 "A" Internationals: 10
Former Coca-Cola Young Socceroo who started in the World Youth Championships in Chile, 1987. Played with CCSL club Sydney Olympic in 1988 and 1989 before moving overseas and eventually playing with Dutch First Division club, De Graafschap. Returned to play with Newcastle for the 1992-93 season. First Socceroo cap was against Fiji in 1988.



5. ALEX TOBIN

DOB: 5.4.66 Ht: 190cm Wt: 80kg
Position: Midfielder Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 47
"A" Internationals: 34
Played junior soccer for Birkalla in South Australia then signed for Coca-Cola Soccer League club Adelaide City in 1984 when he was competing for a spot in the Young Socceroos side. Alex made his debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos as a substitute against IFK Goteborg in January 1986.



12. MILAN IVANOVIC

DOB: 21.12.68 Ht: 187cm Wt: 80kg
Position: Sweeper Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 23
"A" Internationals: 21
Played in the Yugoslav First Division with OFK Belgrade, then transferred to Red Star Belgrade where he played four years before moving to Australia to play with Coca-Cola Soccer League club Adelaide City for a record transfer fee of \$50,000. First represented the Socceroos in January 1991 against Czechoslovakia in Melbourne.



19. TONY VIDMAR

DOB: 4.7.70
Ht: 178cm Wt: 78kg
Position: Defender Adelaide City
Total Appearances: 15
"A" Internationals: 11
Has represented both the Coca-Cola Socceroos and the Coca-Cola Olyroos. He is a regular with CCSL club Adelaide City, and younger brother of fellow Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar. Returned from a short stint with Ekeren in Belgium earlier this year.



6. PAUL WADE

DOB: 20.3.63 Ht: 181cm Wt: 72kg
Position: Midfielder South Melbourne
Total Appearances: 84
"A" Internationals: 63
Born in England, Paul arrived in Australia as an 11-year-old. Played for several Victorian clubs before joining CCSL club South Melbourne. He first appeared for Australia in 1985 against China and has since represented his country in 63 full internationals, making him the highest capped Australian player in this squad. Captain of the Coca-Cola Socceroos.



13. MEHMET DURAKOVIC

DOB: 13.10.65 Ht: 178cm Wt: 72kg
Position: Defender South Melbourne
Total Appearances: 38
"A" Internationals: 29
Moved from Melbourne JUST to CCSL Club South Melbourne, in 1989. Made his debut as a substitute for the Coca-Cola Socceroos against Moscow Torpedo in February 1990. Played against England in 1991 and in four President's Cup matches in Korea in 1991. Has been a regular in Eddie Thomson's Coca-Cola Socceroo line-up since.



20. MARK SCHWARZER

DOB: 6.10.72
Position: Goalkeeper Marconi-Fairfield
Total Appearances: 2 "A" Internationals: 2
Survived a baptism of fire when called upon to replace Robert Zabica in the World Cup qualifiers against Canada. Acquired hero status by saving two penalties in the shootout against the Canadians to send the Socceroos to the next qualifying stage. 1992/93 Coca-Cola Soccer League Goalkeeper of the Year in Marconi's championship winning season.



7. FRANK FARINA

DOB: 5.9.64 Ht: 178cm Wt: 78kg
Position: Striker RC Strasbourg (France)
Total Appearances: 67
"A" Internationals: 37
A graduate from the AIS, Frank started with Canberra Arrows before moving to Sydney City in 1984, then to CCSL club Marconi in 1987. In 1988 he was signed by Belgian First Division giants, Club Brugge, and sold to Italian First Division side, Bari the following season. Frank's debut for the Coca-Cola Socceroos was when he came on as a substitute against Nottingham Forest in May.



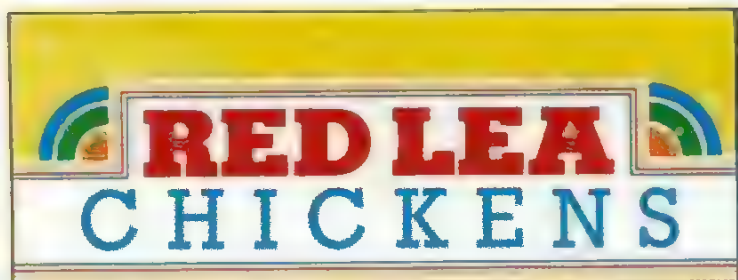
14. STAN LAZARIDIS

DOB: 15.8.72
Ht: 180cm Wt: 75kg
Position: Defender West Adelaide
Total Appearances: 3
"A" Internationals: 3
Stan, who is originally from Perth, was playing for the Perth Italia club and studying to be a Physical Education teacher. He moved to West Adelaide last season after starring for the Western Australian state team and has had a meteoric rise to Coca-Cola League and Socceroo level.



21. MARK BOSNICH

DOB: 13.1.72 Ht: 183cm Wt: 85kg
Position: Goalkeeper Aston Villa (England)
Total Appearances: 4 "A" Internationals: 2
Won the Mastercard Award for his performance in the 1991 World Youth Championships in Portugal. Originally played with Sydney CSC. Served an apprenticeship with Manchester United before signing with Aston Villa in English Premier League. Member of the Coca-Cola Olympic team, Bosnich was promoted to the Coca-Cola Socceroos. Made debut as a substitute against Moscow Torpedo in January, 1990.



SOCCEEROOS': (back-row: left to right). Eddie Thomson (coach), Jason van Blerk, Ned Zelic, Andrew Marth, Mark Bosnich, Alex Tobin, Robert Zabica, Robbie Slater, Graham Arnold, Milan Ivanovic, Raul Blanco, (centre-row: left to right) Dominic Longo, Vlado Bozinoski, Paul Trimboli,



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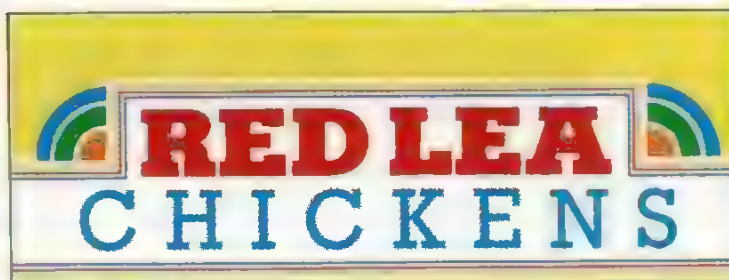
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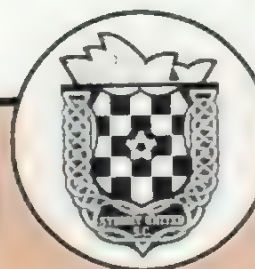
ROOS



Carl Veart, Aurelio Vidma, Milan Blagojevic, Stan Laziridis, (front-row: left to right) Jason Polak, Ernie Tapai, Branko Milosevic, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Corica, Paul Wade (on left top to bottom) Tony Vidmar, Dave Mitchell, Mark Schwarzer.



SORS OF SYDNEY UNITED HE BEST AGAINST ARGENTINA



SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

NATIONAL LEAGUE COACHES... THEIR VIEWS by Anthony Raineri



BOBBY MCLACHLAN, MORWELL FALCONS

The reality is that we are playing Argentina. When I came to Australia 20 years ago, if Australia were playing a team of this calibre, the question was not who would win but by how much Australia would lose by. Now, if Argentina win, Australia will be criticised, Argentina are a world class team. It wasn't that long ago that they were winning World Cups. The result will be quite close. Ideally, the Australia team should have been together for about a month but that's virtually impossible because of the number of overseas-based players in the team. I think Argentina's heavy loss to Colombia was one-off. For them to lose again and this time to Australia would be one of the biggest insults in their history. We must win in Sydney to hope to qualify for the World Cup. **PREDICTION: 1-1.**



DAVID RATCLIFFE, WOLLONGONG CITY

It will be a very hard game but no games are easy on the way to the World Cup. Australia having to play Scotland in 1985 was a difficult assignment and this is no different. Australia have better individual players now than in 1985 but mainly because so many of them play in Europe now. John Kosmina would have walked into this side and I always rated Joe Watson and Ken Murphy. Argentina is a big name in soccer but they not as good a side as in the past. The loss to Colombia did not do Argentina any good, confidence wise. They're now panicking. There are a few doubts in their minds. If they had lost 2-1 then they would not have called Maradona. Australia have to win in Sydney. A draw is not good enough to have a realistic chance of qualifying. I'm hoping like hell they will win. **PREDICTION: 1-1**



JOHN MARGARITIS, MELB BRUNS UTD

There is not a better time than now to play Argentina. For years they have been a top team but now they have problems.

Losing 5-0 to Colombia shows they are on the way down. If Colombia can beat them 5-0 in Buenos Aires, then with a little bit of luck we can at least get a draw at home. We beat Argentina when they were a much better team (4-1, 1988 Bicentennial Gold Cup).

As for Maradona, I have my doubts he is the Maradona that we know.

With all my heart I wish Australia qualifies. But no matter what anyone says, Argentina are still Argentina.

PREDICTION: Australia 1-0.



JIM PYRGOLIOS, STH MELBOURNE

It will be a very, very hard game for Australia. Argentina have a lot of star players and what can you say about Maradona?

He is a brilliant player. Not the same player as before but still Maradona. He will still need close attention. But Argentina have plenty of other players just as dangerous. Australia will have to be consistent for 90 minutes.

I wish Australia can win and if they do it will be a miracle. Most of Australia's best players have been together for a long time so they should have formed a good combination by now.

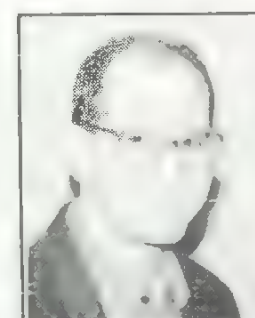
I'm very positive my player Mehmet Durakovic will do the job on Maradona. He'll stick with him all match.

PREDICTION: 1-1.



JIM FOLEY, NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

We have to play in a positive manner and believe we can get a win — that's half the battle. We have a right to believe we can achieve a result albeit we are playing a world class opponent. We know all about Argentina's reputation but I don't think reputations have anything to do with the outcome on the day. Australia faces a huge task but they need not go out there with any fear. Every Socceroo will have to perform at his very best. I don't think the Maradona factor should be blown out of proportion. Australian players in the past have acquitted themselves well in marking world class players. Australia should not approach the game to draw or lose by a narrow margin. If we are not good enough at the end of the day, then we are not good enough. We have still done well to get this far. I suspect Argentina are not riding high on the wave of confidence. They're on the ropes. I believe we are a force to be reckoned with. **PREDICTION: "I see no point in predicting any sort of a result."**



BERTI MARIANI, SYDNEY OLYMPIC

I think Australia in front of their home crowd will be extremely motivated. Argentina are renowned for a patient and solid defensive game. And that's how I think they will play — very tight. Not having Frank Farina is a blow for us. His knack of scoring goals from nothing is crucial. Australia's overall ability to perform as a team will be a major factor. A lot will depend on the first 15 to 20 minutes. If Australia score an early goal, Argentina will have to come out and attack. They will want to go home with a draw or obviously a victory. So an early goal to Australia could upset Argentina's original plan. If Argentina score first, they will be satisfied with a 1-0 scoreline and play the rest of the match extremely defensively. This will force Australia to open up, which Argentina could exploit with breakaways. Diego Maradona looks fit and keen. He will be a major influence. **PREDICTION: 0-0 or 1-1.**



ZORAN MATIĆ, ADELAIDE CITY

Australia are in with a chance. It will be a nice game to watch. It will be extremely tight and tense. I would not give Argentina anymore chance of winning than ourselves. The match will be decided on nerves. We must be patient and wait for our chances. We can't say, yes, let's attack from the word go. Argentina are not the team of old. They do not have one man who is worth five players, like they did five or six years ago. Of course, I'm talking about Diego Maradona — probably the greatest player ever to play soccer. Although he might be playing, he is not the Maradona of old. I do not think he is capable of winning the match on his own. Mentally he is not the same person. I think Australia's key player is Aurelio Vidmar who is capable of defending and attacking in the same minute. Australia has not had a better player for a long time.

PREDICTION: Australia 1-0.



DRAGAN SEKULARAC, HEIDELBERG UTD

Australia should not be underestimated by Argentina. On world rankings Argentina should be too strong for Australia.

You can see why Argentina lost to Colombia in front of their own crowd — the pressure. Argentina have called back Maradona to help them out and you can see why. Against Colombia they were shocking in midfield.

Both teams are having problems getting back their European-based players, which is not good for preparation.

But they have been playing together for a while so they understand each other on the field. Anything can happen in the match — the ball is round. Argentina should be favourites.

PREDICTION: 1-1.



BRUCE STOWELL, BRISBANE UNITED

The quality of Argentina's side speaks for itself. But Australia also have the players to win. I think we have more quality in the side than we have ever had. The task is not impossible. Argentina are beatable. Colombia showed that. Now is the best time to play Argentina. Maradona is good for the game. He gives people a new dimension with which to view the game. But he's not the Maradona of old. He has a lack of games under his belt which can be a big plus for Australia. Australia would be making a mistake if they concentrated solely on him. That's not necessary. We have players who can individually mark quality players out of the game. Australia should not look after Maradona on the field any different than the other Argentine players. We should be looking to win the match because we will find it difficult to win in Buenos Aires. The crowd alone will be uncompromising. **PREDICTION: Australia 2-1.**



RAUL BLANCO, WEST ADELAIDE

Argentina were undefeated for 33 matches — that's two and a half years — before losing twice to Colombia in two weeks. In the last 15 years, which isn't that long, they have won two World Cups and played in the final of another. Anyone who criticises Argentina obviously does not watch them regularly. It is amazing how 90 minutes of football can make everyone forget. Argentina are still an exceptional team and have some wonderful players such as Diego Maradona, Abel Balbo, Hugo Basualdo, Fernando Redondo and Leonardo Rodriguez. We will be under pressure because it is the last hurdle to qualify for the World Cup and we playing one of the best teams in the world. Argentina are under more pressure than us. For them to miss the World Cup would be a tragedy. We will do well as long as we are intelligent, composed and do not freeze for the occasion. We need exceptional discipline and clever tactics. **PREDICTION: Australia 1-0.**



RALE RASIC, PARRAMATTA EAGLES

If we can beat Argentina, then we are no longer the underdogs of world football. But I think it's a very huge task to qualify for the USA '94. Australia always plays well against tough opponents. I would be much more confident of victory if Argentina did not lose so badly against Colombia. I wish Argentina had lost 1-0 and not 5-0. Argentina received a hammering and their pride is hurt. They also have Diego Maradona. Being closely marked is nothing new to Maradona. He has been marked all his life. He is a unique footballer and he has won World Cups on his own. I don't think Ned Zelic is as good in the midfield as he is as a sweeper. But Milan Ivanovich was Australia's best player against Canada. It's an unfortunate situation for Eddie Thomson. If there is nothing in the match, then Maradona will be the difference. Trademark is that we always play well against tough opponents.

PREDICTION: I do not predict scores. As long as the ball is round, I can't predict scores.

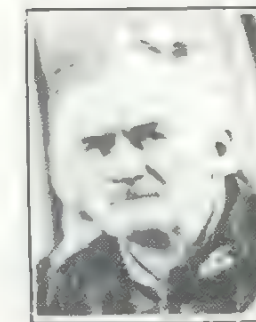


MANFRED SCHAEFER, SYDNEY UNITED

Argentina do not look very strong at the back. We can beat them with our speed in the forwards. The midfield will be a battle royal. I think this is our best chance of qualifying for the World Cup since 1974.

There has been more money spent on this campaign than any in the past — and that's a fact. I would have liked a little more time with the overseas players. Ideally, they should have played a lot more together.

I would have liked the first match to be played away. We are good enough and should be good enough to get a result. No way are Argentina the top dogs anymore. We are just as equal as them. Maradona is not the Maradona of old. He hasn't played much lately. Maradona playing will be in our favour. We have nothing to be afraid of. **PREDICTION: "I do not predict scores."**



FRANK AROK, MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

Our team is capable of beating Argentina at home. I think it's a big disadvantage to play the first match at home because nobody knows what kind of result you need in the return leg to qualify.

If Argentina do not qualify for the World Cup, it will be tragedy for Argentine soccer. Soccer there is much, much bigger than here.

If Argentina lose, the squad will not be allowed back into the country.

The coach and most of the players may be instantly sacked.

If Maradona can run he will make a difference in the match. He will stay around the penalty box all match and try to force free-kicks.

We can beat any team in Australia if the players are in the right frame of mind. **PREDICTION: Australia 2-1.**



MIRKO BAZIC, MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Australia has a chance to win the match, especially with all the overseas-based players in the team.

Australian soccer is very, very fast and strong. Argentina is playing more on reputation these days but they do have better tactics and technique than Australia. The Aussies have a 50-50 chance of winning and with a little bit of luck they can do it. Argentina are two-time world champions. Their 5-0 loss to Colombia was a big, big surprise. Maradona is one of the best players of all time. Only Pelé and maybe Alfredo Di Stefano were better.

Maradona is no longer a superstar and he has had many problems. But he can still make good moves and maybe score goals.

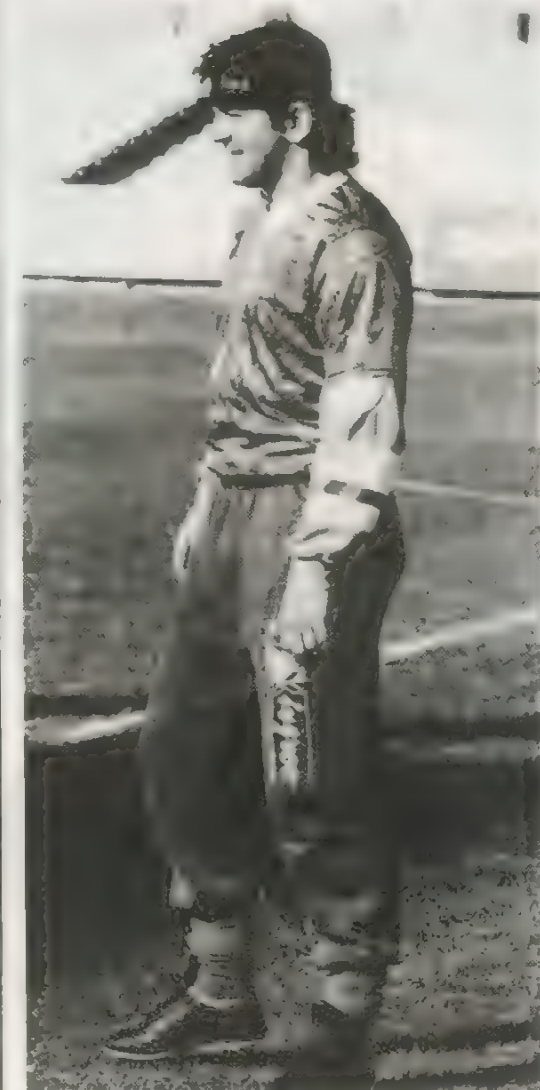
PREDICTION: Australia 1-0.

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BRANKO MILOSEVIC: only a fringe Socceroo nowadays.



"Hardman" Mehmet Durakovic will require more than a bandaged head to pull out of a tackle on Sunday.

All
photos
by
Janusz
Kamma

EDDIE THOMSON
(right): the Socceroo
supremo is about to
face the biggest
challenge of his career.



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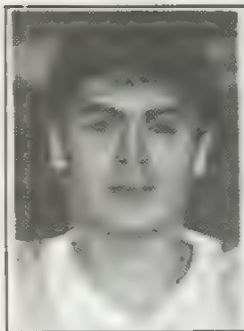
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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

ARGENTINE SQUAD



GUSTAVO ZAFATA

(Yokohama Marines, Japan)
— Born 15.10.67
Right midfielder — 27 international matches.
Debut 13.3.91 (Argentina 0 Mexico 0).
Former River Plate player, recently transferred to Japan. Member of the Copa America winning team in Chile's 1991 and Ecuador's 1993. Great discipline and dedication. A hard worker who never stops.



DIEGO MARADONA

(Newell's Old Boys) — Born 30.10.60
Attacking midfielder — 81 international matches.
Debut 27.2.77 (Argentina 5 Hungary 0).
Scored 32 goals. The best known player in the world. Started his professional career with Argentinos Juniors and then played for Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Seville of Spain and Napoli of Italy. World champion at youth and senior level.

JORGE BORELLI

(Racing Club) — Born 2.11.64
Central defender — 11 international matches.
Debut 24.2.93 (Argentina 1 Denmark 1).
Not very skilful but safe. He was Basile's third choice but consolidated his position since the last Copa America.



HUGO PEREZ: dead-ball specialist.

RAMON MEDINA BELLO

(River Plate)
— Born 29.4.66
Striker — 14 international matches.
Debut 19.2.91, friendly international (Argentina 2 Hungary 0).
Scored five goals. Great physical strength and speed. Very powerful shot.

FERNANDO REDONDO

(Tenerife, Spain) — Born 6.6.69
Central midfielder — 15 international matches.
Debut 28.6.92 (Argentina 2 Austria 0).
Only one goal. Very elegant and talented, with great ball control. Excellent left foot, good shot from any distance.
Returned to play for Argentina in the last Copa America after a five month break because a serious injury.
He is getting back to his best form.

VICTOR SOTOMAYOR

(Velez Sarsfield)
— Born 21.1.68
Defender
— Selected for the first time.
Brilliant season with Argentine champion Velez Sarsfield. Came back to Argentina after two years in Italy.
Good physique but a bit slow.
Excellent good marker, covers with accuracy the flanks and overlaps when least expected.

CARLOS JAVIER MAC ALLISTER

(Boca Juniors)
— Born 6.3.68
Defender — Selected for the first time.
One of the new faces in Basile's national team. Great temperament, excellent marker and hard worker. One of the best defenders in the Argentine league.
Good overlapping on the left flank and boasts a good header.



CARLOS MAC ALLISTER

NORBERTO SCOPONI

LATE ADDITION: (Newell's Old Boys), Goalkeeper.



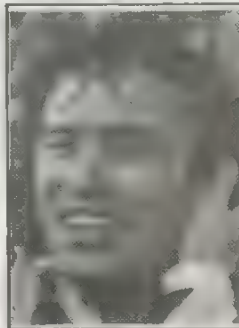
SERGIO JAVIER GOYCOCHEA

(River Plate) — Born 17.10.63
Goalkeeper — 40 international matches.
Debut 10.6.87 (Argentina 1 Italy 3).
Considered one of the best goalkeepers in the world. Great capacity to save penalties but suspect on crosses to the box.



JOSE HORACIO BASUALDO

(Velez Sarsfield) — Born 20.6.63
Defensive midfielder — 27 international matches.
Debut 9.3.89 (Argentina 0 Colombia 1).
A member of the 1990 Argentine World Cup team and member of the Copa America winning team this year. Very intelligent; can play either on the right or left. Brilliant good marker. His stint in German soccer helped him to mature to international level.



ABEL EDUARDO BALBO

(Roma, Italy)
— Born 1.6.66
Striker — 10 international matches.
Debut 9.3.89 (Argentina 0 Colombia 1).
One of the most expensive transfers this Italian season. Very prolific scorer. Good physique; strong temperament and excellent finisher. A member of the 1990 Argentine World Cup squad.



GABRIEL OMAR BATISTUTA

(Fiorentina, Italy)
— Born 1.2.69
Striker — 25 international matches.
Debut 27.6.91 (Argentina 1 Brazil 1).
Scored 17 goals. Great finisher, hard worker, very fast and powerful. Member of the Copa America winning team in Chile's 1991 and Ecuador's 1993. The highest scorer in 1991.



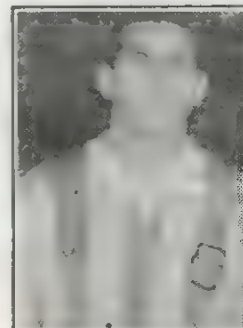
LEONARDO RODRIGUEZ

(Atalanta, Italy) — Born 27.8.66
Attacking midfielder — 26 international matches.
Debut 8.7.91 (Copa America, Argentina 3 Venezuela 0).
Very talented and skilful, with excellent ball control, but inconsistent. He doesn't like tight marking. His recent form has slumped.



LUIS ALBERTO ISLAS

(Independiente) — Born 23.11.65
Goalkeeper — 23 international matches.
Debut 1.9.84, friendly international (Argentina 2 Switzerland 0).
Excellent physique and great agility but very temperamental and some times inconsistent. At the moment arguably the best keeper in Argentina.



FERNANDO GABRIEL CACERES

(Zaragoza, Spain) — Born 7.2.69
Central defender — 6 international matches.
Debut 3.9.92 (Argentina 0 Uruguay 0).
His brilliant display in the last Copa America when he replaced Argentine captain Oscar Ruggeri made possible his transfer to Zaragoza. Good ball control and exceptionally technical for a defender. Sometimes takes too many risks. Very secure when covering the flanks.



RUGGERI: the Argentine captain is suspended for the first leg.

HUGO LEONARDO PEREZ

(Independiente) — Born 7.2.69
Defensive midfielder — Selected for the first time.
Generally works as a central midfielder. Good marker.
Excellent shot from free kicks. Has scored several goals in domestic competition.

JOSE CHAMOT

(Foggia, Italy)
— Born 17.5.69
Stopper — Selected for the first time.
Excellent marker.
Can play either on the right or left. Very strong in the air but not too flashy.

SERGIO VAZQUEZ

(Universidad Catolica, Chile)
— Born 23.11.65
Defender — 22 international matches.
Debut 27.3.91, friendly international (Brazil 3 Argentina 3).
Very elegant and skilful with the ball, but takes too many risks in his sweeper position. He was first choice until the last Copa America. An injury left him out of the team and since then Borrelli has been playing in his position.

SOCCEEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

A useful pre-match hit-out

BY TOM MCKAIN IN
ADELAIDE

SOCCEEROO boss Eddie Thomson's insistence that camps and trial matches be held for the home-based national players as often as possible was shown to be the way to go — despite criticism from some sceptics.

A trial against West Adelaide for the home based squad demonstrated that if the squad is ever hit by injuries or suspensions, there is a steady stream of players capable of slotting into the side which shouldn't miss a beat.

Any stranger watching the match would have presumed it was the full team in action, and not one minus the overseas-based stars.

"The more these guys play together, and the

more they play to the Socceeroos' pattern, then the better it is for the squad," said Thomson.

"Any of these boys could slot into the side. And some will be in our future teams.

"We have all our teams — Socceeroos, Olyroos, Youth team and the Joeys — playing to a set style.

"It's paying off, and as long as we can keep getting the squads together and playing as many different countries as possible the stronger our game will become at all levels.

"And if the players can take something back to their clubs, so much the better."

For the record, Thomson kicked off with what looked his first choice team: Robert Zabica, Jason Polak, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Tony Vidmar, Mehmet Durakovic, Paul

Wade, Steve Corica, Stan Lazaridis, Francis Awaritefe, Carl Veart.

While the score was only 1-0, the goal coming in the eighth minute from Lazaridis after a great run by Corica, the Roos had most of the play, even in the second half when Mark Schwarzer, Damian Mori, Mat Bingley, Paul Trimboli, Kimon Taliadoros, Branko Milosevic and Gus Cerro were sent on.

They replaced Veart, Durakovic, Wade, Corica, Lazaridis, Awaritefe and Zabica.

And it was significant that Thomson left Ivanovic, Tobin Polak and Vidmar on. Thommo confirmed he wanted them to have as much work as possible, and it would appear they will be the back four against Argentina on Sunday.

Of the players who went on as subs, Mori

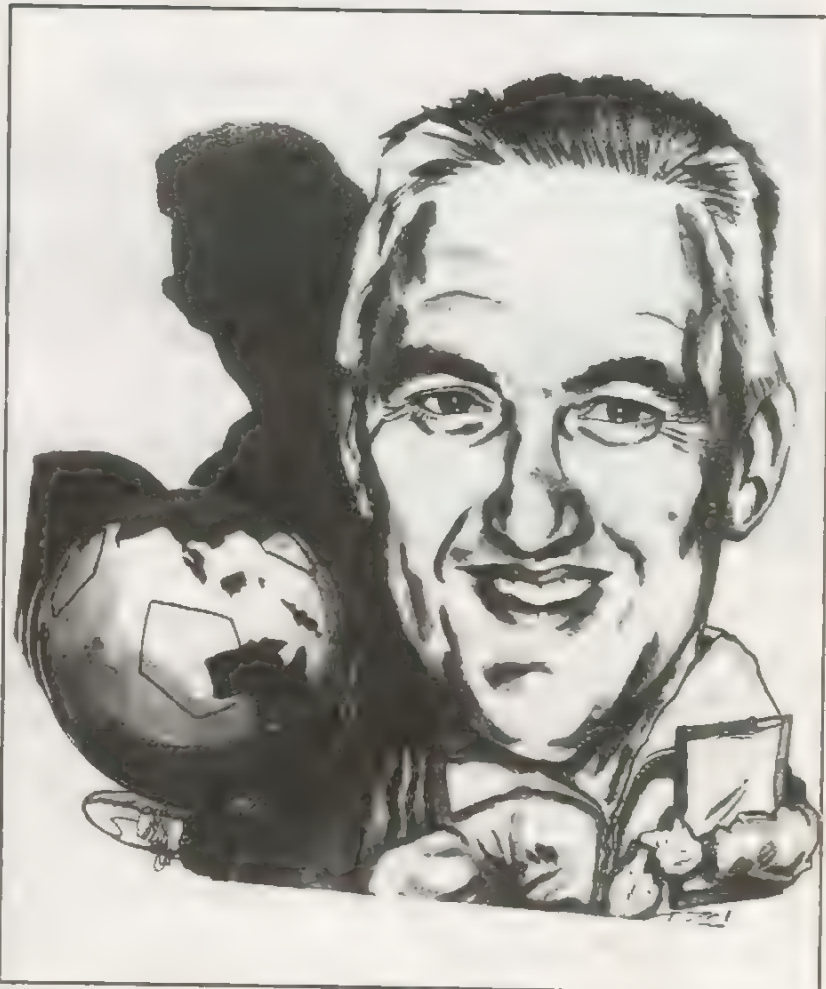
was outstanding, and he could break into the squad on a permanent basis in the near future.

The Socceeroos lost a bit of cohesion when the sweeping changes were made, but Thomson pointed out that the men sent on had not played as often together as the others — which once again proved his point about camps and trials.

While the Socceeroos looked impressive, so did West with coach Raul Blanco, on his club's bench, ringing the changes along with Thomson.

For the second half he took off Jimmy Keramidas, Raymond Blair, trialist Slobodan Despotovski and Greg Mills.

Obviously, at full strength or not, the Socceeroos have caught the imagination of the public.



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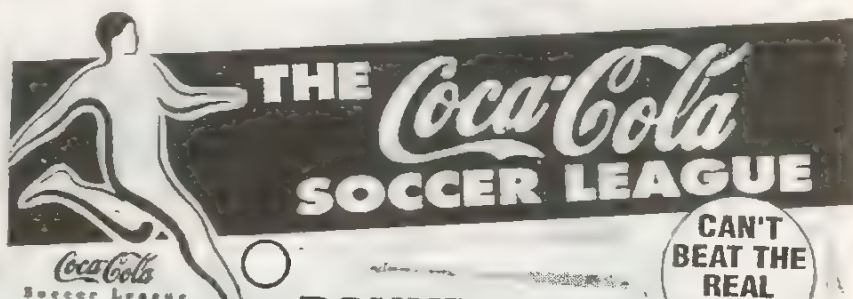
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 30

Morwell Falcons v Brisbane Strikers Morwell Falc. Pk 7.00pm

Marconi-Fairfield v Sydney United Marconi Stadium 7.30pm

Melbourne BUSC v Wollongong City Croatian SportsC 3.00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Melbourne Knights Melita Stadium 7.00pm

Adelaide City v Heidelberg United Hindmarsh Stad. deferred

South Melbourne v West Adelaide Middle Park deferred

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THOMSON'S COMMENTS

BY ANTHONY RAINERI

Thomson said he had decided on the Australian team and that there "would be no surprises."

BASILE'S COMMENTS

BY MARIO ETCHART

"We will try to learn more about Australia, we will analyse every detail. We don't want any surprises by the time we face them".

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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

All Australia's World Cup Results

AUSTRALIA will be playing its 65th World Cup match against Argentina. These are the results of all games played since November 11, 1965 — Australia's debut:

1966

21.11.65 Phnom Penh, N Korea 6 Aust 1
24.11.65 Phnom Penh, Aust 1 N Korea 3
North Korea qualified for finals.

1970

10.10.69 Seoul, Japan 1 Aust 3
14.10.69 Seoul, Aust 2 S Korea 1
16.10.69 Seoul, Aust 1 Japan 1
20.10.69 Seoul, S Korea 1 Aust 1
Australia qualified for second phase
23.11.69 Lourenco Marques
(Mozambique), Aust 1 Rhodesia 1
27.11.69 Lourenco Marques, Rhodesia 0
Aust 0
1.12.69 Lourenco Marques, Aust 3
Rhodesia 1
Australia qualified for final phase
4.12.69 Tel Aviv, Israel 1 Aust 0
14.12.69 Sydney, Aust 1 Israel 1
Israel qualified for finals.

1974

4.3.73 Auckland, NZ 1 Aust 1
11.3.73 Sydney, Aust 3 Iraq 1
13.3.73 Sydney, Aust 2 Indonesia 1
16.3.73 Sydney, Aust 3 NZ 3
18.3.73 Melbourne, Aust 0 Iraq 0
24.3.73 Sydney, Aust 6 Indonesia 0
Australia qualified for second phase
20.7.73 Sydney Aust 3 Iran 0



Coach Frank Arok and some of the 1989 Socceroos who failed to make the play-off against Colombia when held to a 1-1 draw by Israel.

Top row players: Slater, Yankos, Crino, Trimboli. First row, van Egmond, to Arok's left, and Davidson.

5.8.93 Teheran Iran 2 Aust 0
Aust qualified for final play-off
28.10.73 Sydney, Aust 0 S Korea 0
10.11.73 Seoul, S Korea 2 Aust 2
13.11.73 Hong Kong, Aust 1 S Korea 0
Australia qualified for finals

1978

13.3.77 Suva, Fiji Aust 3 Taiwan 0

16.3.77 Suva, Fiji Taiwan 1 Aust 2
27.3.77 Canberra, Aust 3 NZ 1
30.3.77 Wellington, NZ 1 Aust 1
Australia qualified for final group
10.7.77 Adelaide, Aust 3 HK 0
14.8.77 Melbourne, Aust 0 Iran 1
27.8.77 Sydney, Aust 2 S Korea 1
16.10.77 Sydney, Aust 1 Kuwait 2
23.10.77 Seoul, S Korea 0 Aust 0

30.10.77 Hong Kong, HK 2 Aust 5
19.11.77 Kuwait City, Kuwait 1 Aust 0
25.11.77 Tehran, Iran 1 Aust 0
Iran qualified for finals.

1982

25.4.81 Auckland, NZ 3 Aust 3
16.5.81 Sydney, Aust 0 NZ 2
20.5.81 Melbourne, Aust 2 Indonesia 0

10.6.81 Adelaide, Aust 3 Taiwan 2
26.7.81 Suva, Fiji 1 Aust 4
14.8.81 Melbourne, Aust 10 Fiji 0
30.8.81 Jakarta, Indonesia 1 Aust 0
6.9.81 Taipei, Taiwan 0 Aust 0
NZ qualified for finals.

1986

21.9.85 Auckland NZ 0 Aust 0
8.10.85 Tel Aviv Israel 1 Aust 2
20.10.85 Melbourne Aust 1 Israel 1
23.10.85 Adelaide Aust 7 Taiwan 0
27.10.85 Sydney Taiwan 0 Aust 8
3.11.85 Sydney Aust 2 NZ 0
Australia qualified for final play-off
20.11.85 Glasgow Scotland 2 Aust 0
4.12.85 Melbourne Aust 0 Scotland 0
Scotland qualified for finals.

1990

26.11.88 Nadi, Fiji 1 Aust 0
3.12.88 Newcastle, Aust 5 Fiji 1
12.3.89 Sydney, Aust 4 NZ 1
19.3.89 Tel Aviv, Israel 1 Aust 1
2.4.89 Auckland, NZ 2 Aust 0
16.4.89 Sydney, Aust 1 Israel 1

1994

4.9.92 Solomon Islands, Aust 2, Solomons 1
11.9.92 Tahiti, Aust 3 Tahiti 0
20.9.92 Brisbane, Aust 2 Tahiti 0
26.9.92 Newcastle, Aust 6 Solomons 1
30.5.93 Auckland, Aust 1 NZ 0
6.6.93 Melbourne, Aust 3 NZ 0
31.7.93 Edmonton, Canada 2 Aust 1
14.8.93 Sydney, Aust 2 Canada 1



The Argentina press predict the result for this Sunday.



COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART

Daniel Arducci. "El Grafico" magazine.
Argentina 2 Australia 1.
Alejandro Quintana. "Popular" newspaper.
Argentina 0 Australia 0.
Claudio Aisenberg "Clarín" newspaper.
Argentina 1 Australia 0.
Juan Pablo Varsky. "Channel 13" T.V.
Argentina 3 Australia 0.
Oscar Balor. "Cronica" newspaper.
Argentina 2 Australia 1.
Roberto Carnevale. "America" radio.
Argentina 4 Australia 0.
Eduardo Palucci. "T.V. Telefe."
Argentina 3 Australia 0.

Victor Grubicy. "Goles" magazine.
Argentina 1 Australia 1.
Marcelo Larraguy. "Noticias" newspaper.
Argentina 2 Australia 0.
Carlos Sarraf. "Clarín" newspaper.
Argentina 2 Australia 0.
Fernando Sturla "Cronica" newspaper.
Argentina 0 Australia 0.
Claudia Franchi. "Telam Newsagency"
Argentina 2 Australia 1.
Hector Gallo "Libertad" radio.
Argentina 2 Australia 0.

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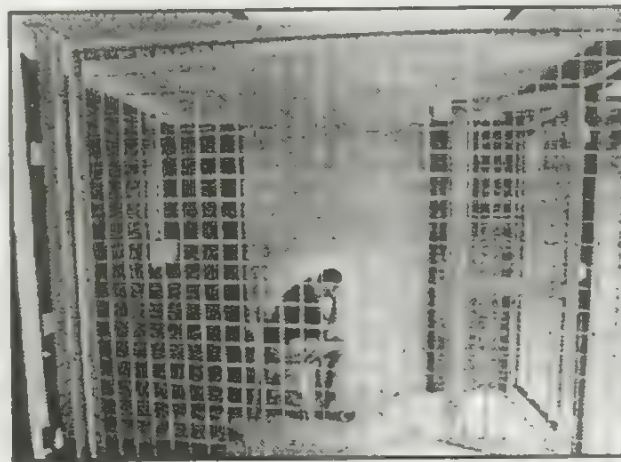
'A' CAPS AND GOALS

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■ Milan Ivanovic (Ad City)	21/-
■ Dominic Longo (Cercle Brugge)	2/-
■ Mehmet Durakovic (Sth Melbourne)	29/2
■ Milan Blagojevic (Ekeren)	6/-
■ Alex Tobin (Ad City)	34/1
■ Jason van Blerk (Go Ahead Eagles)	16/1
■ Stan Lazaridis (West Adelaide)	3/-
■ Tony Vidmar (Ad City)	11/-
■ Paul Wade (Sth Melbourne)	63/9
■ Frank Farina (Strasbourg)	37/10
■ Aurelio Vidmar (Waregem)	11/2
■ Jason Polak (Newcastle)	10/-
■ Robbie Slater	11/-
■ Graham Arnold (RC Liege)	44/15
■ Carl Veart (Ad City)	8/5
■ David Mitchell (Swindon)	27/11
■ Steve Corica (Marconi)	4/-
■ Robert Zabica (Ad City)	25/-

DEBUT DATES

debut v New Zealand	30.5.93
debut v Canada	3.7.92
debut v Czechoslovakia	6.2.91
debut v Czechoslovakia	30.1.91
debut v NZ	30.5.93
debut v Indonesia	25.8.90
debut v Sth Korea	14.6.91
debut v Indonesia	25.8.90
debut v Indonesia	25.8.90
debut v Kuwait	15.4.93
debut v Czechoslovakia	6.2.91
debut v China	23.9.85
debut v China	23.9.85
debut v Czechoslovakia	30.1.91
debut v Fiji (WC qual)	3.12.88
debut v Brazil	7.7.88
debut v China	23.9.85
debut v Solomon Islands	26.9.92
debut v Taiwan	10.6.81
debut v Kuwait	15.4.93
debut v Indonesia	25.8.90

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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

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HOW THEY GOT THERE



Aurelio Vidmar goes past Canada's Lyndon Hooper

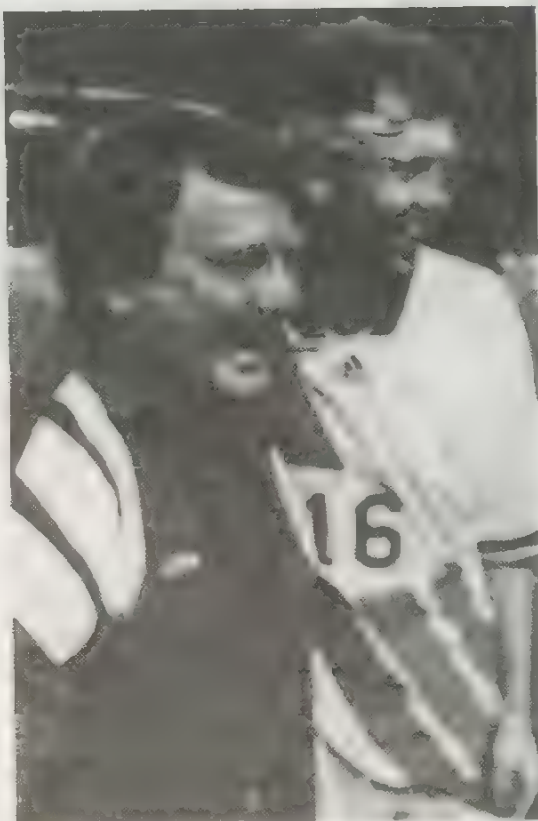
THESE are the results, with scorers in brackets, that got Australia and Argentina to their final transcontinental play-off for a berth at USA '94:

AUSTRALIA

- > v Solomon Islands 2-1* (Veart, McCulloch)
- > v Tahiti 3-0* (Mori, Veart, Wade)
- > v Tahiti 2-0 (Veart, Durakovic)
- > v Solomon Islands 6-1 (Genc, Gray, Veart, Wade, G Brown, Durakovic)
- > v New Zealand 1-0* (Arnold)
- > v New Zealand 3-0 (Veart, A Vidmar, Zelic)
- > v Canada 1-2* (Og Canada)
- > v Canda 2-1 (Farina, Durakovic)

Played: 8
Won: 7
Lost: 2
GF: 20
GA: 5

> Top scorer: Carl Veart 4 goals



Super-sub Dave Mitchell with Les Scheinflug after the Socceroos' penalty shoot-out victory against Canada.

ARGENTINA

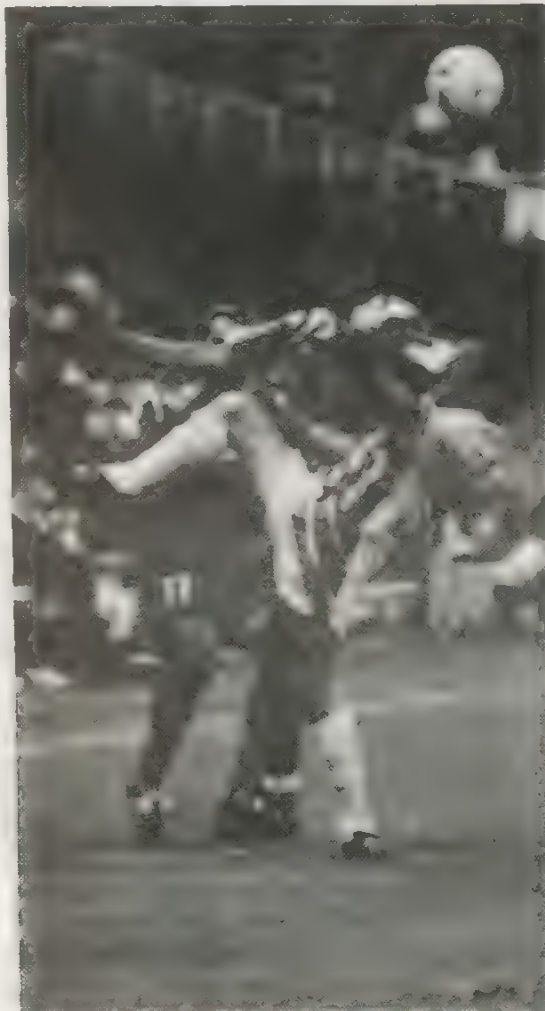
- > v Peru 1-0* (Batistuta)
- > v Paraguay 3-1* (Medina Bello 2, Redondo)
- > v Colombia 1-2* (Medina Bello)
- > v Peru 2-1 (Batistuta, Medina Bello)
- > v Paraguay 0-0
- > Colombia 0-5

Played: 6
Won: 3
Draw: 1
Lost: 2
GF: 7
GA: 9

Top scorer: Ramon Medina Bello 4 goals.
* away matches



Fans at the Sydney Football Stadium in 1988



Mehmet Durakovic defending against Canada.

IN BRIEF

REILLY BACKS BOSNICH

Outspoken former Socceroo Jack Reilly has urged Australians to get off Mark Bosnich's back after the Aston Villa goalkeeper's about-turn decision to play in the World Cup qualifier against Argentina.

Ex-Australian keeper Reilly said the Birmingham-based Socceroo was Australia's best bet in goal and had proved his patriotism by making himself available for the game on Sunday.

"He is the best keeper in the country and it's essential for Australia to field its strongest line-up possible," said Reilly, the only Australian goalkeeper to play in the World Cup finals.

"He's obviously got the right attitude by wanting to come out here."

He has also made himself available with Ned Zelic for the return encounter in Buenos Aires on November 17.

Bosnich believes he was unfairly labelled a traitor by Australian fans because he put his club before his country.

The keeper announced his retirement from international football after Australia initiated a FIFA ban when he made himself unavailable for the August clash with Canada because of Villa commitments.

Bosnich, motivated by the opportunity to play against Argentine champion Diego Maradona, risks surrendering his first team spot at Villa to Nigel Spink.

The Socceroo, who lost his place at the start of the English Premier League because of the ban, only recently forced his way back into Aston Villa's team and was a hero with his penalty save against UEFA Cup opponent Deportivo La Coruna on October 20.

Reilly said Bosnich should now be given a fair go.

"I've got a certain amount of sympathy for the other goalkeepers Robert Zabica and Mark Schwarzer because they were under an enormous amount of pressure during that time but Australia has got to give itself the best chance of winning," he said.

"I think Schwarzer is potentially the best keeper Australia has ever had but right now Bosnich has more experience."

Reilly, who represented Australia in West Germany in 1974, did take umbrage however to Bosnich's comments that Australia should first look for respectability against Argentina.

"We've got to be looking at qualifying for the World Cup, that's the only way we're going to win respect," Reilly said.

"I don't believe we will earn respect by getting beaten 2-0 or 1-0."

ARGENTINA TO WIN

Brilliant midfielder Hugo Perez says Argentina will exact revenge for last month's horrific 5-0 loss to Colombia by humbling Australia in Sunday's World Cup qualifier in Sydney.

Perez, who is expected to play alongside comeback star Diego Maradona in the middle, says the embarrassing result at the River Plate Stadium in Buenos Aires will fire the team against the Socceroos.

THOMSON AND AROK

EDDIE Thomson and Frank Arok joined forces again last week to support the selection of Australian Socceroos for the weekend opening round of the National League.

The partnership of Arok and Thomson took Australia to a sensational 4-1 win over Argentina in the 1988 Bicentennial Gold Cup in Sydney as well as reaching the quarter finals of the Seoul Olympic Games.

Thomson has to overcome Argentina in the next two weeks to qualify Australia for next year's World Cup finals in the United States. He became Socceroo coach after Arok stood down following Australia's unsuccessful attempt to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

"Playing last weekend in the league didn't worry me because of the injury risk," said Thomson in quashing concern about the move.

"But they need the run. They could just as easily suffer injuries in practice games but club competition will help them towards match fitness."

Arok agreed the matches were essential for the players. "They haven't played a decent game since the series against Canada and they really need about six or seven games together," he said.

"That was the reason I would always try to take the team away, so that we could organise our defence and play against spirited opposition. You never get the same commitment in training matches."

Thomson was pleased at the news that sweeper Ned Zelic had decided to forego club duties in Germany and would come to Sydney for the first match against Argentina. Thomson was also pleased to hear that striker Robbie Slater has been in superb form for his French First Division club Lens.

"I could do with all of them in good form," he said. "The more players in condition the better."

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SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

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ARGENTINA HAS PROUD RECORD

MARADONA IN FORM



Led by Sergio Goycochea and Oscar Ruggeri, Argentinians celebrate winning this year's Copa America final against Mexico.

ARGENTINA have one of the best pedigrees in international football.

At South American or world level, they rate amongst the very best.

The nation of 33 million soccer fanatics has won two World Cups and twice reached the final, and has also qualified for an Olympic final.

Argentina have won the Copa America — the South American Championship for national teams — a record 15 times, the last

occasion earlier this year when they took out the crown in Ecuador.

Argentinian clubs have won the Copa Libertadores — the South American Champions' Cup — 15 times and have also taken out the intercontinental club title, now known as the Toyota Cup, nine times.

The Asociacion del Futbol Argentino (AFA) was formed in 1983 and joined FIFA in 1912.

It affiliated to the South American Football Confederation,

CONMEBOL, in 1916.

The country only officially has 3,120 clubs and 41,300 registered players, as against some 350,000-plus in Australia, whose population is roughly half, but these figures are misleading.

Not included are the literally thousands of clubs and players who are not affiliated to the official association.

Any side street or vacant lot in Argentina is teeming with budding Diego Maradonas, and it is

estimated that almost 30 percent of the male population — some five million people — engage in some soccer activity.

Argentina has 3,420 professional players, 5,124 registered coaches and 370 fully certified referees, according to latest figures issued by the AFA.

Apart from 1938 and 1954, when Argentina did not enter, they have only missed one final series — in 1970 in Mexico.

— LOU GAUTIER

Argentina superstar Diego Maradona showed he had lost little of his skill with two exciting goals in a trial match at Wentworth Park last week.

Coach Alfio Basile gave his group their first serious hit-out when he organised a practice match against a pickup Sydney team last Friday.

Maradona scored with a swerving volley from 12 metres and followed with a downward headed goal from close range after his first shot bounced back from the cross bar.

Players from the South American community in Sydney and from various NSW Federation clubs furnished the opposition.

St George midfielder Jovan Kkorovski had the unenviable task of marking the former Argentine captain.

"He's so skilful with the ball that half the time I didn't know which way he was going," said Kkorovski.

"His vision is excellent and he constantly uses little flicks with the ball which are so good and accurate.

"I had a very tough time trying to keep up with him and I think Socceroo defender Mehmet Durakovic will also have a hard time on Sunday."

Kkorovski said Maradona wasn't fast around the field but speeded up when he got possession of the ball.

Maradona, who played throughout the entire 60 minutes session with his bootlaces loose, directed most of the play.

Basile did not push his team who comfortably handled the opposition, using short passes and tactical possession.

Few of the visitors exerted themselves in fast runs while top keeper Sergio Goycochea was only called upon once to extend himself between the posts.

Basile was expected to change his programme this week when the remainder of his squad arrived from Europe.

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AUSTRALIA

Likely line-ups

ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA'S RESERVES: ZABICA, SCHWARZER, VEART, WADE, BLAGOJEVIC, POLAK, LONGO, LAZARIDIS, CORICA.

ARGENTINA'S RESERVES: MEDINA BELLO, VAZQUEZ, ISLAS, ZAPATA, RODRIGUEZ, CACERES, SCOPONI.

The venue for Sunday's match: the 42,000 capacity Sydney Football Stadium.



SOCCEROOS v ARGENTINA

* 24-PAGE SOUVENIR *

MARADONA PHOTO ALBUM



Diego Maradona, wife Claudia and daughters Dalma and Gianina.

As Diego Armando Maradona embarks on a new career — internationally and domestically — ABSW takes this opportunity to present some of the pages of the stormy album that has been his life since he burst on the soccer stage at the age of 17, in 1977.

Honours have been piled on the greatest South American player since Pelé, but he has had more than his fair share of grief and controversy. It isn't easy being Maradona...



In Napoli colours against VfB Stuttgart in the victorious 1989 UEFA Cup final.



At his peak, in season 1985/86 for Napoli.



Diego in action for Boca Juniors in 1981 against St Etienne of France.



The legend's greatest triumph — lifting the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.



A low point in Diego's career — the 1990 World Cup final against Germany. Here he's arguing with Mexican referee Edgardo Codesal Mendez.



Diego Maradona as a precocious teenager before helping Argentina win the 1979 Youth World Cup in Japan.



The seven-month stint with Sevilla of Spain started joyfully 12 months ago, but ended on a sour note before the club finally released him to play for his current club, Newell's Old Boys of Rosario, in Argentina.

OLD BOY'S NEW BOY

This is how the most influential and widely read football monthly in the English-language, WORLD SOCCER, reported on Diego Maradona's latest comeback:

"After weeks of failing to decide — and frequently changing his mind — whether to return to professional football, Diego Maradona finally decided to sign for Newell's Old Boys of Rosario.

"Other Argentine clubs in the hunt included San Lorenzo and Argentinos Juniors (the club who discovered Maradona more than 20 years ago).

"Perhaps money talked. Newell's were reported to be offering four million dollars for a 10-month contract, plus a salary of \$35,000 a month, all paid by a petroleum company.

"Or perhaps it was the player's sudden desire to get into the national team after watching them being beaten 5-0 by Colombia in a World Cup qualifier a few days earlier, and hearing the crowd chanting for his return.



"Maradona and Argentinian coach Alfio Basile appeared on a radio show and dismissed claims that they had been at loggerheads/.

"We are both hot-heads," said Basile.

"Maradona, now 33, has always hoped to finish his career with popular local club Boca Juniors.

"He played one season here before joining Barcelona, and was disappointed when they did not call after his return from Sevilla in June.

"An Argentine sports magazine, El Grafico, gave a reason.

"When Maradona was here last year during his suspension, for drugs offences, Boca president Antonio Alegre invited him to stay at his ranch near Buenos Aires. Maradona ran up a \$13,000 phone bill which he 'forgot' to pay.

"The magazine said his wife, Claudia, did not want to miss her English lessons while away, and rang her teacher every day to take an hour long lesson over the phone."



A much heavier Diego Maradona signing autographs when presented to the Sevilla fans a year ago.



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ARGENTINA: (back-row: left to right),
Fabián Armando Basualdo, Jorge
Horacio Borelli, Fernando Carlos
Redondo, Sergio Javier Goycochea,
Oscar Alfredo Ruggeri, Ricardo Daniel
Altamirano, (front-row: left to right),
Gustavo Miguel Zapata, Diego Pablo
Simeone, Gabriel Omar Batistuta,
Néstor Raul Gorosito, Aberto Federico
Acosta (left) Diego Maradona, lost Los
Confirmados, Carlos Javier Mac
Allister, José Chamot, Abel Balbo.

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